

Daniel McMillan

"Daniel McMillan was born at Dumbarton, Scotland, on March 2, 1819. When a lad of fifteen he moved with his parents to England, where he served several years' apprenticeship as a blacksmith. In 1845 he married Janet Davis.

Born and reared a Catholic and remaining devout to this religion nearly thirty years, he studied Mormon literature and listened to the missionaries. Finally the family joined the Church as converts of George Q. Cannon. They were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the year 1849, emigrating to America in 1863, crossing the sea in an old-style sailing ship driven hither and thither by the winds and waves. They crossed the plains with ox teams in the heat, dust, and wind, sharing all the hardships and inconveniences of the two months' travel on that 1,000 mile journey. They reached Heber in 1865, where Daniel began plying his trade as blacksmith and, with the aid of his loving wife, began to clear what was then a wilderness and make for themselves a happy home. Before their hopes were realized, however, the cruel hand of death visited his home and snatched away the loving wife and mother. In 1871 he married Mary Mair Murdoch, who died in 1900. No children were had from the second marriage, but by his first wife he was the father of four: Ephraim, Phebe Hanna, Mary Ellen, and William. He had three stepchildren, Mary, Andrew, and Alexander Mair. Elva and Annette Olsen, two little girls, were left in Mary's and his care for a few days by their mother, but she never returned. Daniel and Mary adopted them and reared them until they were married.

Daniel McMillan was known as 'Uncle Dan' to everyone who knew him. Heber was his home for over a quarter of a century. Being generous to a fault and without any enemy in town, his friends were as numerous as his acquaintances. During his long residence in Heber he established for himself a record as a man of integrity and uprightness. He died at the home of his son William, peacefully, as the blotting out of the sun's rays by a passing cloud, on April 29, 1902."